RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 10th March, 1999/
19th Phalguna, 1920 (Saka)

The House met at Eleven of the clock, **Mr. Chairman** *in the Chair.*

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Power Projects in Rajasthan and Orissa

*201. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of pending power projects in Rajasthan and Orissa, till date;

(b) what is the number and details of existing proposals to which the Central Government have so far decided to give techno-economic and Environmental clearance, State-wise;

(c) the amount of internal/external assistance likely to be given during the Ninth Five Year Plan period, State-wise; and

(d) what is the total production of power proposed to be made by these power projects in each of the above mentioned States?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM,. (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) The following power projects of Rajasthan and Orissa are under examination for grant of Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC) of the Government:—

RAJASTHAN

1. Mathania ISCC (140 MW)
2. Suratgarh TPP (2x250 MW)
3. Ramgarh CCGT (35.5 GT + 35.5 ST)

ORISSA

1. Balimcla H.E. Extn. Project St. II (2x75MW)

(b) During the current Plan period, the following proposals have already been granted TEC:—

RAJASTHAN

1. Anta CCGT St. II (650 MW) by M/s NTPC
2. Barsingsar Lignite based TPP (2x250 MW) by M/s Hindustan Vidyut Power Corporation.
3. Dholpur CCGT (702.7 MW) by M/s RPG Dholpur Power Co. Ltd.

ORISSA

1. Talcher STPP St. - II (4x500 MW) by M/s NTPC
2. Ib Valley TPP (2x250 MW) by M/s. AES Ib Valley Power Corp.
3. Duburi TPP (2x250 MW) by M/s Kalinga Power Corp.

(c) Based on the discussions of Working Group meetings, the Planning Commission have proposed an outlay of Rs. 4488.89 crore and Rs. 4622.79 crore for power sector in Rajasthan and Orissa, respectively for the 9th Plan. As regards external assistance, a shelf of projects is posed to the Department of Economic Affairs every year for consideration of donor agencies. How much external assistance is made available for the Ninth Plan depends upon the number of projects ultimately accepted by the donors over the Plan period. No projects of Rajasthan and Orissa have been posed so far for external assistance during the 9th Plan.

(d) Total production of power proposed to be made by these power projects in each of the States is as follows:—

State	Thermal	Hydro
RAJASTHAN		
-TEC accorded	1852.7 MW	-
-Under process for TEC	711.0 MW	-
TOTAL	2563.7 MW	
ORISSA		
- TEC accorded	3000.0 MW	-
- Under process for TEC	-	150.00
TOTAL	3000.0 MW	150.0 MW

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: सभापति महोदय, मैं इस बात को मानता हूं कि पिछले कुछ समय में केन्द्र सरकार ने बहुत से ऐसे प्रस्ताव किए हैं जिस से कि पावर प्राजेक्ट्स जल्दी लग सके और कई नियमों में सुधार भी किए हैं। प्रांतों को अधिक छूट दी है, लेकिन मैं मंत्री जी के ध्यान में लाना चाहता हूं कि अब तक केन्द्र सरकार ने 47 प्राइवेट पावर प्रोजेक्ट्स सैंक्शन किए है और एकाडिंगली 22,495 मेगावाट की सैंक्शन हो चुकी है। साथ ही 6 प्रोजेक्ट्स बाकी है जिन में करीब 5600 मेगावाट पावर की सैंक्शन होनी बाकी है। इस तरह से लगभग 30 हजार मेगावाट पावर की सैंक्शन हमारी केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा हो चुकी है या होने वाली है, लेकिन मैं आप से निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि इतनी बड़ी मात्रा में सैंक्शन होने के बाद भी 92-93 में केवल 18 मेगावाट का प्रोडक्शन नए प्रोजेक्ट्स के द्वारा हुआ, 94-95 में केवल 12 मेगावाट का हुआ, 95-96 में 330 मेगावाट, 96-97 में 249 मेगावाट और 97-98 में 734 मेगावाट अर्थात् कुल 1343 मेगावाट का उत्पादन हुआ जबकि हम ने लगभग 22 हजार मेगावाट की सेक्शंस कर दी।

महोदय, मंत्री जी से मेरे प्रश्न का पहला भाग यह है कि प्रांतों से सैंक्शन होकर केन्द्रीय विद्युत प्राधिकरण के पास प्रोजेक्ट्स आ जाते हैं, उस के बाद वहां प्रोजेक्ट्स को क्लिअर होने में बहुत समय लगता है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि सैंट्रल इलेक्ट्रिसिटी आथारिटी के पास प्रोजेक्ट आने के बाद आप उस को कितने कम समय में क्लिअर करने का वायदा कर सकते है अन्यथा वहां आकर प्रोजेक्ट की जो हालत होती है ऐंटरप्रिनियर को कितने कष्ट उठाने पड़ते हैं, उस का अनुमान इस बात से लगाया जा सकता है कि साल-साल, दो-दो साल तक सैंट्रल इलेक्ट्रिसिटी अथारिटी से प्रोजेक्ट क्लिअर नहीं होता। मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या वे सी०ई०ए० में सेक्शंस कि लिए कोई टाइम-बाउंड प्रोग्राम बना सकेंगे? महोदय, यह मेरे प्रश्न का पहला भाग है।

श्री सभापति: पहला भाग आप पहले कह चुके है, यह दूसरा पहला भाग है।

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: महोदय, मैं बिल्कुल प्रश्न की सीमा में ही रहना चाहता हूं। मैंने राजस्थान के संबंध में प्रश्न पूछा हैं। मेरे प्रश्न का दूसरा भाग यह है कि राजस्थान में गैस आधारित ऊर्जा पैदा करने का प्रयास पिछली सरकार ने राजस्थान में किया था, लेकिन सौर ऊर्जा के बारे में मंत्री महोदय ने कोई जानकारी अपने लिखित उत्तर में नहीं दी है। मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि सौर ऊर्जा और नॉन-कनवैंशनल पावर प्रोजेक्ट्स के बारे में तो उन की नीति बहुत स्पष्ट है, लेकिन प्रोजेक्ट्स को क्लिअर करने के बारे में राजस्थान के संबंध में उन्होंने क्या प्रयास किए हैं?

SHRI P.R. KUMARA MANGALAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish to assure my good friend, the hon. Member, that the past history of CEA so far of taking a number of years in giving clearance is no longer a reality. We have cleared forty-eight projects today; and we have a situation where within three months of the application being given in complete form, we clear the project -- not even one day beyond that. In fact, we do it even earlier. In fact, one of the reasons why this whole lot of projects which have suddenly come up, forty-eight number is because of the speed with which they have given the clearance in the last one year. Therefore, I wish to assure him that three months is the limitation; that has been given by the Ministry to the CEA, and the CEA is definitely following that. With regard to solar energy, I wish to inform him that he may not be aware that the first item in the reply, in the statement, is what is called Methania ISCC; 140 MW project, it is a hyrid project. In this, there is a 35 MW portion which is solar. Actually, it is now a situation where we had the first Standing Project Appraisal Committee meeting on 18th November and revised clarifications have been given, and very soon the TEC will be issued for them. That is most probably one of such large projects which will be hybrid, of thermal and solar together. He is right in the sense that the number of projects that should come up is not coming up; and that is essentially because solar is a very highly capital intensive project now-a-days. It works out to approximately between 20 and 30 crores of rupees per MW, depending upon what sort of equipment is pushed in but not below Rs. 20 crores per MW, while thermal works out to between Rs. 3 and 4 crores per MW.

That is the difference and that is one of the reason why solar has not picked up as a complete commercial alternative to conventional energy.

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: सभापति महोदय, मेरा दूसरा पूरक प्रश्न यह है कि एनटीपीसी ने कई प्रांतो में मेगा प्रोजेक्ट सेटअप करने के लिए प्रस्ताव किए है, कुछ कमीशिंनग हो रहे है या स्टार्ट होंगे या उन पर काम शुरू

होगा, राजस्थान के बारे में यह बात ठीक है कि पिछली सरकारों ने शायद हमको इस लायक नही समझा होगा कि यह अपना कोई वहां मेगा प्रोजेक्ट ले जाए, लेकिन अब मैं इस सरकार से जरूर वह अपेक्षा करता हूं कि यह इस ओर ध्यान देगी। राजस्थान के भीतर जितने खनिज हैं या आंतरिक स्रोत हैं, जिसके कारण राजस्थान प्रगति की ओर बढ़. रहा था, बढ़ सकता है, लेकिन केवल पावर की कमी के कारण वह अपने स्रोतों का उपयोग ठीक ढंग से नहीं कर पा रहा है। इसलिए मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि राजस्थान के लिए भी, जैसा अभी उन्होंने 5/6 तारीख को दो हजार मेगावाट का प्रोजेक्ट बिहार को एक तरह से भेंट दिया है, उसी तरह क्या राजस्थान को भी उतनी उदारता से कोई मेगा पावर प्रोजेक्ट भेंट करने की आप तैयारी कर सकते हैं? हमारा इनसे अनुरोध है कि राजस्थान की प्रगति के लिए हमें इतना एशोरेन्स दें कि आने वाले नाइन्थ प्लान में वह हमें पावर का एक मेगा पावर प्रोजेक्ट दे सकेंगे।

SHRI P.R. KUMARA MANGALAM: I am happy to inform my good friend that Anta Stage 2 and 3, both are within the mega project scheme in Rajasthan. (*Interruption*) you can make Anta from a 450-600 MW project to a 2000 MW project. The balance expansion has been brought within the mega project and it is a gas-based project, but that much gas may not be available in Rajasthan and is not available at the moment; and in future, I doubt. But, we are entering into a contract with Petromech, a public sector -- not fully public sector, but 50% is held by a public sector company — for ensuring LNG import and to see that gas is made available for this Anta project. It would be one of the success stories and one of the ideal projects that will be coming up in the country.

SHRI SANATAN BISI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my question is relating to power projects in Orissa. Sir, in setting up power projects during the 9th Five Year Plan, as per Unstarred Question No. 273 of 1st December, 1998, some projects of Orissa have been mentioned. Those projects are Pottoru, Upper Indravati, Ib Valley, Balimcla, Bargarh and Talchar. In response to another question relating to Orissa, the names of Upper-Indravati, Balimcla, Bargarh and Ib-Valley were included. In response to another question replied to on 1st December, 1998, Potteru, Upper-Indravati, Ib-Valley, Balimcla, Bargarh and Talchar were included. But, in the answer which has been given today, Potteru and Upper-Indravati have not been included. What is the reason for their non-inlcusion?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: They were cleared much earlier. That is one of the reasons why they have not been included. If they have not been included, I stand corrected and we can add them. But, I must inform the hon. Member that they were cleared much earlier. These are really very important projects which got TEC clearance recently.

SHRI SANATAN BISI: Sir, Upper-Indravati is a drought-prone area of Kalahandi. Therefore, I would like to have a specific answer from hon. Minister.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, to the best of my knowledge and information available, it has been cleared earlier. It is a project which will need a substantail investigation further to ensure that we can deal with it. It is a project that will come up.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Sir, recently the hon. Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of two super mega thermal power projects in Bihar. It is a welcome move, at least, some gift out of article 356. I would like to know from the hon. Minister by when the work will commence on these two projects.

SHRI P.R. KUMARANANGALAM: Sir, the work has already started in terms of site clearance. We have taken possession of a small portion of land. With regard to requirement of notification, notice has already been given to the State Government. The State Government has given us the possession of land, small portion of land, where we have already started our work. The work has commenced. It would be completed between 40 and 48 months from the 6th when the foundation stone was laid. Finances have been provided. They are not from the Budget because the NTPC does not get budgetary support. The NTPC has ability to raise its own equity and surplus funds as well as additional finances. The projects will be completed within a period of 48 months starting from the date of laying of the foundationn stone.

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Sir, in the reply, it has been stated, "As regard external

assistance, a shelf of projects is posed to the Department of Economic Affairs every year for consideration of donor agencies. How much external assistance is made available for the Ninth Plan depends upon the number of projects ultimately accepted by the donors over the Plan period." From this what I have been able to understand is that every year a shelf of projects is posed to the Department of Economic Affairs. This is taken up clearly on the basis of that. Now, two years of the Ninth Plan have already elapsed. I would like to know how many projects have been taken up for external assistance during this period and how much money we will be getting by way of this financial assistance. Sir, part (B) of my question is: How many projects have been sumitted for the current year and the coming year, and, how many of them will be accepted?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, I am sorry; this is a specific quesiton dealing with Rajasthan and Orissa. I have not got the details sought by the hon. Member. I also remember the earlier supplementary on this quesiton. I, therefore, would have the details collected and send them to the hon. Members.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: So, far as the question of techno-economic clearance is concerned, it is absolutely clear as to how many projects have been given clearance. What I would like to know from the hon. Minister is this. Out of 40,000 M.W., for the 9th Five Year Plan as a whole, how many have been financially tied up? The position becomes rather uncertain because he is mentioning that the external assistance which is made available in the Ninth Five-Year Plan depends on the numebr of projects ultimately accepted by the donor. With this kind of a proviso, the whole thing becomes very uncertain and that is the reason why I am very particular in finding out as to how many projects have not only been given techno-economic clearance, but how many of them have been tied up, so far as the financial aspect is concerned.

The seconod part of my supplementary is the other day—and even today—the hon. Minister repeated the same thing. The NTPC seems to have an unlimited capacity for putting in finances by raising their own finances. I would like to know, from this 40,000 M.W.—which you are contemplating for the Ninth Five-Year Plan as a whole-how much has been earmarked for financially sound NTPC projects, and how many of them are going to be financed by the NTPC, so that we get a clear picture as to how many have been tied up financially? The other day, the hon. Prime Minister laid the foundation-stone for a 2,000 M.W. project in Bihar. We feel that this is also a techno-economically and financially tied up project. I would like to have the information from the hon Minister on these points.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, if I may submit the Central sector's capacity, proposed in the Ninth Plan, is 11,909 M.W.; the NTPC's capacity, out of 40,000 M.W. is 6,720 M.W.; the state sector's capacity is 10,749 M.W.; which is, 26.7 per cent; the private sector's capacity is 17,588 M.W., which is 43.7 per cent.

With regard to the outlay for the Central sector, the net budgetary support proposed by us is Rs. 13,863 crores; and the gross budgetary support is Rs. 17,245 crores. The outlay initially fixed, in totality, by the Planning Commission, is Rs. 46,143.66 crores. Subsequently reassessed and fixed at Rs. 50,204.15 crores. Sir, money proposed by the Planning Commission to the State sector was Rs. 71,227 crores. For the year 1997-98, the outlay was Rs. 7,290 crores; for 1998-99, the approved outlay was Rs. 9,950 crores. If you wish to have further details, I can go on giving the details. I just wish to say that finances insofar as exernal grants are concerned—you know the present situation and the situation which we faced last year, with a certain amout of sanctions background—are a little tight now. However, the earlier projects had been cleared and funds had been released for projects like Rihand, Pipavav, etc. by multinational agencies. But I must mention here that, today the strength of the NTPC's equity is 1:1. If we do restructuring and bring in down to 30 per cent and 70 per cent — a traditional equity — that is, 30 per cent equity and 70 per cent debt which we are talking about, in addition to the surplus funds that the NTPC has, it has the abiiity of putting up 12,000 M.W. power plants. We are in the process of restructuring. I am confident that we will be able to do this

12,000 M.W. which is twice of what the NTPC is supposed to do in the Ninth Plan, and that is the reason why we have gone in for mega projects and we are moving ahead in that direction. I may also add that the private sector projects today, which are fully commissioned, account for 3017 MW.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: How many of them are financially tiedup projects?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: So far as financially tied-up projects are concerned, it is my belief that by the end of this month we should have been able to complete 18 projects on the Crisis Resolution Group, which I chair, and which the hon. Prime Minister has been kind enough to appoint. All the financial institutions and State Electricity Boards of State Governments are there on this group. We have managed to ensure that 18 projects are financially closed. Ultimately, we would have about 20 out of 48 projects, which, by the next 8-9 months, I would with your support, be able to close. But the major issue, which, I think, I should bring to the notice of the House is, that liquid fuel projects, which are about 20,000, look a little difficult because tariffs are looking a little high. So, we may have to supplement them through the mega-project scheme. This is what we are basically doing to ensure that the target of 40,000 can be met.

श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे: सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि अपने देश में बिजली की कमी है और यह सरकार और मंत्री जी इस कमी की आपूर्ति करने के लिए बहुत कदम उठा रहे हैं। अपने देश में जितने नेच्युरल रिसोसेज हैं उसकी जो क्षमता है वह आज दिन तक उपयोग नहीं की गई है। तो मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि कच्छ के वे में टाइडल वे व इलेक्ट्रिसिटी का बहुत साल पहले अध्ययन हुआ है, उसका सर्वे हुआ है और फाइनेंसियल रिस्ट्रेंट के कारण वह आगे नहीं बढ़ सका। तो मैं मंत्रीजी से पूछना चाहूंगा कि क्या वह आश्वासन देंगे कि जब बिजली की कमी है और राजस्थान में गैस नहीं पहुंचा सकेंगे तो कच्छ से वहां तक हम ले जाएंगे। जो टाइडल वे व प्रोजक्ट वहां खड़ा किया जाएगा और प्राईवेट पार्टियों को भी जब आप शामिल कर रहे हैं तो क्या इस बारे में आप कोई और अध्ययन करके कदम उठाएंगे।

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, I would have liked to answer this question in detail. But this is a pilotstage project with French and Canadian technology, which, at the moment, is being looked into and being developed. I totally agree with the hon. Member that one should look at non-conventional alternatives, and tidal wave is an alternative which could be looked at. But the project which the hon. Member is referring to is a pilot-stage project.

Pay Revision for Intelligence Agencies

*202. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:†
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whethher undercurrent of resentment is building up in four super secret intelligence agencies, since their counterparts in other intelligence agencies are already getting higher salaries, perks as per recommendations of the 5th Central Pay Commission, as reported in the Times of India of December 27, 1998; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to remove their grievances and resentment?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement-I

(a) and (b) The revised pay scales on par with the employees of other intelligence organisations, based on the recommendations of 5th Central Pay Commission have already been given to the employees of these organisations with effect from 1.1.1996. Some of the remaining issues are under consideration of the Government. There is no resentment among the employees as reported in the Press.

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: May I know from the hon. Minister whether personnel belonging to this super intelligence agency

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Rajubhai A. Parmar.